

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 1174

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Blake Mevis of Nashville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Blake Mevis; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mevis was a highly regarded Nashville songwriter and producer who made significant contributions to the country music canon, as well as a gentleman beloved by all who were fortunate to know him; and

WHEREAS, a native of Plymouth, Indiana, Blake Mevis moved to Music City in 1971; he worked as a grocery and liquor store clerk and then as an assistant-manager trainee at Pittsburgh Paints before landing a job with Loretta Lynn's Coal Miner's Music; and

WHEREAS, as the prolific songwriter's career continued, he worked for ABC and MCA Records and headed Charley Pride's publishing company for a time during the 1980s; during one week in August 1983, he boasted four records in the *Billboard* Country Top 20, three of which were in the top six spots—songs he had either written or produced; and

WHEREAS, Blake Mevis was instrumental in country music legend George Strait's career, producing his first two albums, *Strait Country* and *Strait from the Heart*; he was also responsible for introducing Mr. Strait and the now-acclaimed Dean Dillon, sparking a forty-year relationship that resulted in multiple chart-topping singles, including Strait's breakthrough hit, "Unwound"; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mevis himself continued to top the country music charts throughout the 1980s and into the early oughts, penning George Strait's classic No. 1 "Fool Hearted Memory" with co-writer Byron Hill, as well as Loretta Lynn's "Out of My Head and Back in My Bed," Charley Pride's "Night Games," and Joe Nichols's "Brokenheartsville"; and

WHEREAS, Blake Mevis was also an invaluable contributor to the career of country music giant Keith Whitley, producing his first full-length studio album, *L.A. to Miami*, as well as parts of his sophomore effort, *Don't Close Your Eyes*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mevis leaves behind an indelible legacy and a trove of songs and albums that will forever remain touchstones of country music; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Blake Mevis of Nashville, reflecting fondly upon his noteworthy career as a songwriter and producer, his impeccable character, and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Mevis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.